Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 12 as indicated below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A scanning microscope that defines a beam path, comprising an optical component, arranged in the beam path, that comprises a plane entrance surface through which a light beam bundle can be incoupled at an entrance angle, and a plane exit surface through which the light beam bundle can be outcoupled at an exit angle, whereby the optical component contains at least two elements that exhibit at least two different refractive indices; and the entrance angle and exit angle are different.

Claim 2 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the light beam bundle is not deflected by the optical component.

Claim 3 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the light beam bundle is deflected no more than 5 degrees by the optical component.

Claim 4 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the light beam bundle contains light of at least two wavelengths and wherein the exit angle is identical for the light of at least two wavelengths.

Claim 5 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical component is a beam splitter.

Claim 6 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical component is a beam deflection device.

Claim 7 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical component contains an acoustooptical component.

Claim 8 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the optical component is achromatically corrected.

Claim 9 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein in the optical component contains a double wedge.

Claim 10 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the light beam bundle comprises at least two portions of differing wavelength; and the portions of differing wavelength extend collinearly after exiting from the optical component.

Claim 11 (original): The scanning microscope as defined in Claim 1, wherein the scanning microscope is a confocal scanning microscope.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An optical component comprising at least two elements that exhibit at least two different refractive indices and that define a plane entrance surface through which a light beam bundle can be incoupled at an entrance angle, and a plane exit surface through which the light beam bundle can be outcoupled at an exit angle, whereby the entrance angle ~~is different from~~ and the ~~entrance~~ exit angle are different and whereby partial beam bundles divided from the light beam bundle by the optical ~~element~~ component are sufficiently spatially separated from the light beam bundle that they do not interfere with the light beam bundle.

Claim 13 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the light beam bundle contains light of at least two wavelengths and wherein the exit angle is identical for the light of at least two wavelengths.

Claim 14 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the optical component is a beam splitter.

Claim 15 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the optical component is a beam deflection device.

Claim 16 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the optical

component contains an acoustooptical component.

Claim 17 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the optical component is achromatically corrected.

Claim 18 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the optical component contains a double wedge.

Claim 19 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the light beam bundle comprises at least two portions of differing wavelength; and the portions of differing wavelength extend collinearly after exiting from the optical component.

Claim 20 (original): The optical component as defined in Claim 12, wherein the optical component is positionable in a scanning microscope.